MARVEL

5

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

LARSEN
BROCCARDO
ROSENBERG

RATED **T+**

MARVEL

5

VARIANT EDITION

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DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPIDER-MAN NOIR

THE GWEN STACY AFFAIR, PART V

PREVIOUSLY...

It's 1939 and private detective PETER PARKER, using powers he received from a mystical spider bite, moonlights as the vigilante SPIDER-MAN! Recently, he was able to foil the dastardly SCORPION GANG's heist but had to shoot his way out to do so. Then, GWEN STACY hired Peter to investigate her father's murder, and his search turned up the worst. GEORGE STACY hadn't been the straight shooter everyone thought—he'd been moonlighting with the Scorpion Gang all along! His killer? SPIDER-MAN! And when Peter admitted to knowing who killed her father, Gwen asked him to unmask Spider-Man! But before Peter could figure out a plan, he crossed paths with a mysterious figure in a diving helmet who, with a single touch, stole his spider-powers!

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SPIDER-MAN created by **STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO**

I'm **not** Spider-Man. Not anymore.

That's **not me** crashing through the window into Gwendolyn Stacy's apartment.

A short while ago, **this** man was lying on a **table** in Dr. Helga Haag's Nazi **laboratory**.

He was wearing some kind of souped-up **diver's helmet** and wandered off during the commotion.

Shortly thereafter, he went on a **killing spree**, sucking the **life** out of everybody he came into contact with.

He sucked the **spider-powers** right out of me.

GWENDOLYN.

GWENDOLYN.

And now he's **here**.

GWENDOLYN.

SKAKKASSH...

I told Gwen that I'd protect her.

Right at this moment, I'm not doing a very good job of that.

I also told her to get her father's gun.

KRAKK!

UNNGH!

GWENDOLYN.

OH!

OH!

OH!

That, she did--

--but she's too paralyzed to use it.

Which means it's up to me to get my act together.

Thankfully, his **first** strike was a glancing blow.

If he'd hit me **squarely**, you could pick pieces of me off the sidewalk from here to **Yancy** Street.

I don't expect my luck to hold out.

This Spider-Menace makes **short work** of the kitchen chair I swung at him.

KEEP YOUR GRIMY MITTS *OFF* OF HER!

THRAKK!

Taking on a guy with the proportionate strength of a **spider** is no picnic, as many of the toughs **I** tangled with can attest.

And he's **not** making it easy.

If his **powers** are **anything** like **mine** were, he'll have a Spider-Sense alerting him of danger.

Gwen couldn't get a bead on him if she **tried**.

OH GOD! OH GOD!

IF *YOU'RE* NOT GOING TO SHOOT HIM, GWEN--

--GIVE *ME* THE GUN!

WRAMM!

STOP!

STOP-- OR I'LL *SHOOT!*

Nervous, scared-- Gwen shoots **anyway**.

I guess his Spider-Sense didn't see **that** coming.

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

OH GOD

OH GOD

DID I...?

DID I **KILL** HIM?

IT'S **OKAY**, GWEN. YOU CAN PUT THE **GUN** DOWN.

IT'S **OVER** AT LAST. YOU GOT HIM.

YOU **KILLED** THE MAN WHO **SHOT** YOUR FATHER.

Okay, not **exactly** how things played out, but... one way or the other-- **Spider-Man** is **dead**.

I reach down to check his **pulse**, and I feel a **jolt**.

Then I check under the **hood**...

...and I get a second jolt.

It's Captain George Stacy.

Gwen's father.

The man I killed in self-defense when I was Spider-Man.

The man Gwen Stacy hired me to find the killer of.

What in blazes?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NONE OF IT MAKES ANY SENSE.

IT CAN'T BE DADDY.

IT CAN'T.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN.

YOU COULDN'T.

Connecting the dots...

...that means that Helga Haag, that Nazi scientist, resurrected Captain Stacy.

Which means that either Captain Stacy was a Nazi important enough to be brought back from the dead...

...or he was just the freshest stiff in the morgue that the Nazis could use in their evil experiments.

Either way--it's not sitting too well with either of us.

A few days later, Captain George Stacy is **finally** lowered into the ground.

His **funeral** is a somber affair, as you might expect.

My old *"pals"* **Arnie Gunderson** and **Jerry Waller** are among the mourners.

Last time I saw **Arnie**, he was trying to talk me into going to a **Nazi** rally.

Wall-Eye is a mutual acquaintance.

THE SCORPION GANG CAN'T CATCH A BREAK, CAN THEY?

THIS ISN'T THE *TIME* OR *PLACE*, RORY.

"The Scorpion Gang."

This **isn't** over.

These boys are **up** to something.

I can **feel** it.

The police force is full of rats. **Captain Stacy** was just one of **many** that were on the take.

There's **nobody** I can turn to at a time like this.

So I follow my **gut**.

Soon I'm back to one of my old haunts.

I pass by the **Back Alley Boys**, who don't recognize me out of my **Spider-Man** uniform.

THE BLACK CAT CLUB

SURRENDER, SIR GUY--YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ROBIN HOOD!

YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE WILL BE YOUR UNDOING, ROBIN HOOD!

Their clowning around outside provided just enough of a **distraction** for me to slip by undetected and settle in **before** the police arrived.

So now I'm trying my **damnedest** to look like a piece of the **furniture** and **not** a guy eavesdropping on a bunch of crooked cops.

The nervous man is **Tyson Gwink**. He's a coroner.

The others-- I don't know.

HOW'S YOUR MOTHER DOING, GWINK? SHE DOING OKAY?

MOTHER IS...WELL.

GOOD FOR HER.

YOU HEAR THAT, BOYS? GWINK'S MOMMY IS DOING JUST DANDY.

SHAME YOU CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT CAPTAIN STACY.

THAT LADY DOCTOR YOU HOOKED US UP WITH WAS A BUST, GWINK.

THE OLD MAN WENT SCREWY.

That's putting it mildly. Stacy became a **monster**, sucking the **life** out of everything he **touched**.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT--HE CLEANED UP THE HARDBOIL GANG PRETTY GOOD.

HARDBOIL TOO. HE'S LYING ON A SLAB BACK AT THE MORGUE.

AND STACY'S IN THE GROUND.

THE NEW WORLD ORDER CHOSE A REPLACEMENT FOR THE OLD MAN.

I catch as much as I can.

The New World Order is meeting at the **Church** with that giant stone **idol** in it. I never **did** find that missing **gem**, but maybe **they** did, and maybe they can plug it into its **eye socket** and bring that thing to life.

And then what?

I'm an idiot.

There can be no other explanation.

Still--this Spider-Man costume's the best disguise I have.

And somebody's got to stop these Nazi creeps.

And it's not like I can report this to the police--they are the police.

Something is going on here.

Problem is--I don't know anybody that I can trust to call in as backup.

But this is suicide.

I don't have spider-powers. I don't even know what's going on in there or what to expect.

I'm going in blind.

And crawling up here is taking more effort than I'd care to admit.

I'm winded.

I pray to God they can't hear me panting like a dog up here.

But somebody's got to stop these guys and if not me--who?

I'm an idiot.

So--the big reveal--the **Scorpion Gang?**

Nazis.

The New World Order?

Nazis.

MOVE **QUICKLY**, COMRADES.

ALL MUST BE IN READINESS.

DESTINY AWAITS!

And this big **Nazi** guy, Commandant Müller?

Major Nazi.

I am **in** over my **head**.

AT LAST, THE MOMENT HAS COME WHERE THE ***ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION*** CAN BE UNLEASHED!

AT LAST, THE ***UNGETÜM*** WILL RISE UP AND ***SEIZE*** THIS LAND FROM THE UNWASHED ***IMMIGRANTS***--THE WRETCHED ***REFUSE*** WHO HAVE ***POISONED*** THIS LAND--

--AND ***RETURN*** IT TO THOSE WITH ***PURE ARYAN BLOOD!***

What can I do?

I'm one guy with one gun against an army of Nazis!

THE ***TIME*** HAS COME!

OUR ***MOMENT*** IS ***NOW!***

And it's not like spraying the crowd with bullets is justified.

At this point, these Nazi bozos haven't done anything yet.

BY PLACING THIS ***GEM*** IN THE EYE OF THE ***UNGETÜM***, IT WILL BRING THE IDOL TO LIFE!

THE COUNTRY WILL BE ***CLEANSED*** OF THE VERMIN--THE ***INSECTS*** WHO HAVE ***SULLIED*** THIS COUNTRY!

AMERICA WILL JOIN ***GERMANY*** IN OUR ***BATTLE*** FOR ***WHITE SUPREMACY!***

HEIL HITLER!

HEIL HITLER!

UP AGAINST THE WALL, NAZI PIGS!

YOU'RE NOT TAKING OVER ANYTHING!

THIS IS OUR COUNTRY!

AND HITLER CAN GO HANG!

KA-BOOM!

The cavalry arrives.

Kind of.

Can I truly call this new Hardboil and her cronies the cavalry?!

COME ON, BOYS--

LET'S SHOW THESE TRAITORS WHAT REAL AMERICANS ARE MADE OF!

AND SEND THESE NAZIS STRAIGHT TO HELL WHERE THEY BELONG!

I mean...

...how can I argue with that?

DUMMKOPF! SCHWACHSINNIG! THE GEM DID NOTHING!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I WAS ASSURED THIS GEM WAS A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT!

And then it all goes to **hell**.

Rival gangs start **shooting** at each other.

The room is **ablaze**.

There's **smoke** and **fire** everywhere.

BLAM!

KA-TWING!

BLAM!

UNNGH!

WHAT IN--?

Great. Just great.

I'm cut off from the **exit**.

My only option is a **precarious** trip across a support beam.

This was **not** a good idea.

LOOK--

--IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

--**I** wouldn't be caught in the **middle**.

SHOOT HIM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

KILL THAT IDIOT!

The **sad** part about all this?

If I had just stayed behind with Gwen--**nothing** would have changed here.

These two gangs would **still** be shooting it out.

The only difference is--

And then--somehow--it gets **worse**.

KRAKK!

Then everything stops.

I feel a familiar buzzing in my head.

And then--

THWIPP!

That can only mean one thing.

My powers have returned to me!

I haven't lost them!

I'm still Spider-Man!

First order of business--take the flamethrower away from the Boil lady!

I'LL SEE YOU ALL IN HELL!

THWIPP!

SURELY NOT ALL OF US!

SPIDER-MAN!

STUPID COW!

THROKK!

I SHOULD *THANK* YOU, INSECT!

BY *DISTRACTING* HARDBOIL, I WAS ABLE TO *LAND* THE *KILLING BLOW!*

I *WOULDN'T* COUNT HARDBOIL OUT JUST YET, RUBBER BLAND--

--SHE MAY *LOOK* LIKE SHE'S DOWN FOR THE COUNT, BUT *HARDBOIL* HAS GOT MORE LIVES THAN A CAT!

INSOLENT INSECT! YOU SHOULD BE ON *OUR* SIDE! AN *ALLY* OF THE THIRD REICH!

SURELY YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR COUNTRY *RETURNED* TO ITS FORMER GLORY! WE ARE *NOT* SO *DIFFERENT*, YOU AND I!

MAN, HAVE *YOU* GOT THE WRONG NUMBER!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? AMERICA IS A *MELTING POT!*

BLAM! BLAM!

THOOM!

WE ARE THE *SONS* AND *DAUGHTERS* OF IMMIGRANTS--PEOPLE WHO *CAME* TO THIS COUNTRY IN *SEARCH* OF A *BETTER LIFE!*

THAT'S WHAT MAKES US *WHO WE ARE!*

WE MAY COME FROM *DISTANT LANDS*, BUT WE ARE *UNITED* IN OUR DESIRE FOR *LIFE*--

--*LIBERTY*--

--AND THE *PURSUIT* OF *HAPPINESS!*

SAY *GOOD NIGHT*, GRACIE--!

SPLAKK!

GHAA! WHAT THE HELL?

YOU'RE NOT EVEN *HUMAN!* NOT EVEN A *LITTLE!* YOU'RE A JUST DISGUSTING SWARM OF *COCKROACHES!*

Come to think of it--

--I've been seeing a lot of these little devils lately.

They've been damned near everywhere.

From the Nazi lab to the Black Cat Club!

Something tells me this infestation of insects has been keeping an eye on the proceedings the whole time!

WELL, WELL, WELL-- WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

That ends today!

OKAY, YOU *RASCALLY ROACHES*--THE PARTY'S OVER.

THIS IS THE *END* OF THE *LINE!*

FRA-WHOOSH!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

COMMANDANT MÜLLER WAS A SUIT FULL OF BUGS!

THE WHOLE PLACE IS GOING UP IN FLAMES!

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

COCKROACHES!

WE'VE BEEN TAKING ORDERS FROM COCKROACHES!

Everything comes crashing down.

Everybody scatters...

...right into the arms of the waiting police!

The fire department hoses down whatever's left.

The new Hardboil is led away in handcuffs.

And I make my way out, undetected.

Or at least--

--mostly undetected.

WHOA!

WOW.

DIDJA SEE THAT?

I SEEN IT.

I AIN'T BLIND!

SO--

THAT'S IT.

DADDY **DIDN'T** INFILTRATE THE GANG--HE WAS THEIR **RINGLEADER**--AND A **NAZI**.

THAT'S A **LOT** TO TAKE IN.

MAYBE...

MAYBE HE **DID** DO WHAT HE DID FOR **ME**...

...**INITIALLY**...

...HE WAS STILL A **CRIMINAL** AND A **NAZI**.

THAT'S THE **SHORT** OF IT.

HELGA HAAG, A NAZI SCIENTIST, BROUGHT HIM **BACK** FROM THE **DEAD**.

HE WAS **THAT** IMPORTANT TO THEIR OPERATION, IT SEEMS.

FRAGILE

AND **SPIDER-MAN**...?

IT **APPEARS** THAT YOUR FATHER **KILLED** HIM...

...JUST LIKE ALL THE **OTHERS**, REDUCED TO **ASHES**.

I **WISH** YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO.

I NEED TO TAKE SOME **TIME**, PETER-- **AWAY** FROM ALL THIS.

I NEED TO LEAVE TOWN TO **RE-EVALUATE** MY LIFE AND **COLLECT** MY THOUGHTS.

DADDY LEFT ME WITH A LOT OF **MONEY**, BUT IT WAS **ILL-GOTTEN**, AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO **DO** WITH ALL THAT.

I **WON'T** BE GONE FOREVER.

I SURE **HOPE** NOT.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO **NOW?**

SPIDER-MAN WAS SUCH A BIG PART OF YOUR LIFE.

IT GAVE YOU **PURPOSE**.

A **REASON** TO GET UP IN THE MORNING.

YOU MADE A REAL **DIFFERENCE**, PETER, AND YOU SHOULD BE **PROUD** OF WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED.

I CAN **STILL** MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PEOPLE **DON'T** NEED **SUPER-POWERS** TO MAKE A **DIFFERENCE**.

YOU'VE MADE A DIFFERENCE--FOR **ME** AND **EVERYBODY** WHOSE HEART YOU'VE TOUCHED.

THIS **ISN'T** THE END OF MY LIFE, AUNT MAY. I WAS **ME** BEFORE I WAS **SPIDER-MAN**, AND I CAN GO BACK TO BEING **ME** AGAIN.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKER

1858 – 1930

BELOVED HUSBAND AND UNCLE

AND WHAT ABOUT THIS **YOUNG LADY** YOU'VE BEEN SEEING?

GWEN'S BEEN THROUGH A **LOT**.

SHE HAD HER WHOLE **LIFE** TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

IT'S BEEN A **LOT** FOR HER TO PROCESS.

GWEN'S TAKING SOME TIME.

SHE **SAYS** THAT SHE'LL BE BACK, BUT...

...WE'LL SEE.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE **OKAY?**

DON'T **WORRY** ABOUT ME.

I'LL BE OKAY.

IT'S **FINE**, MARY JANE.

I'LL BE **FINE**.

I HAVE A **PURPOSE**. I HAVE A **LIFE**. A **VOCATION**. **PURPOSE**. DID I ALREADY SAY **PURPOSE?**

I'LL **MANAGE**.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CONVINCE **ME**--OR **YOURSELF?**

THIS IS A **BIG DEAL**, PETER.

YOU WERE **SPIDER-MAN!** YOU WERE A **CRIME-BUSTER!** YOU FOUGHT SUPER-POWERED **BAD GUYS** AND VISITED OTHER **DIMENSIONS!**

SO I'VE HEARD.

DON'T **PRETEND** YOU'RE NOT GOING TO **MISS** ALL OF THE **ACTION** AND **EXCITEMENT!**

YEAH...

MAYBE.

YOU AND **HUEY PACKARD** STILL A THING?

GOLDEN DRAGON CHOP SUEY

WHY, ARE **YOU** SUDDENLY BACK ON THE MARKET?

SUSU!

WHERE DID YOU **GET** THAT?

IT WAS IN THE **TRASH** WHEN MAMA CLEANED YOUR **ROOM**.

THAT'S NICE.

THAT GEM MUST HAVE **FALLEN** OFF MY **DESK.**

I'VE BEEN LOOKING **ALL OVER** FOR IT!

...

CAN **I** HAVE IT?

YOU KNOW WHAT?

SURE.

KEEP IT!

IT'S NOT LIKE **I'VE** GOT ANY USE FOR IT!

THANK YOU, PETER.

SAY "HELLO" TO **MRS. LING** FOR US, SUSU.

The End.

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

HEY, WEB-HEADS!

It's cold outside, but things are hotter than ever in the Spider-Office! Worlds collide in **PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR**, where **JOSH TRUJILLO** and **ANDREA DI VITO** bring the First Family into the unknown--but it's an unknown that WE know (and love) very well! Add a new **PREDATOR** mini called **BLOODSHED** by **JORDAN MORRIS** and **RUAIRÍ COLEMAN** to fill the *Badlands*-shaped hole in my heart? SIGN ME UP! **G. WILLOW WILSON** and **GLEB MELNIKOV** kick off the bombastic second arc of **BLACK CAT**, where Felicia is reunited with MARY JANE and doesn't know that MJ's also VENOM!!! And because Venom can't stand still, this month starts one of the biggest Spider-Stories ever with **ASM/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1**! Spidey, Venom, and Carnage come crashing back together in what feels like a culmination of the story that started in ASM #300! Glad I wore layers today because I'm sweating in this heat!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

DEATH SPIRAL

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Phillip Kennedy Johnson

TITLE: Writer

WORKS ON:
THE INCREDIBLE HULK,
DUNGEONS OF DOOM

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Joe Kubert, Jim Henson, Dizzy Gillespie. Artists who devoted their lives to art and to education, both sacred professions.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

The Lizard! In trying to make himself better, he loses his own humanity and ends up practically destroying himself. I get it, bro.

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Visualize exactly who you want to be, dedicate some time every day toward those goals, and don't let short-term crises pull you off the path. Your habits are who you are.

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #7

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #1
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #5
- ❑ BLACK CAT #7
- ❑ PLANET SHE-HULK #4
- ❑ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #5
- ❑ VENOM #254
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #22
- ❑ DUNGEONS OF DOOM #2
- ❑ KNULL #2
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1

- ❑ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #4
- ❑ MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #4
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #1

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PANEL OF THE MONTH:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
page 12, panel 2 art by JESÚS SAIZ

GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

It's a battle with the past this month as lots of things come back to haunt our Hulks! In **INFERNAL HULK #4**, Hulk takes it a little too literally as he wrestles with all his past personas deep in the Hulkscape!

Meanwhile, in **PLANET SHE-HULK #4** out in space, his cousin She-Hulk is throwing down with her ex(?)-boyfriend Jack of Hearts! They used to be so happy!

What could suck more than that, you ask? How about fighting a LITERAL BLACK HOLE? Which is what Hulk is doing in **HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3**!

HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #3
On sale 2/25

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL #1
Variant Covers by SKAN, STONEHOUSE & DAVE RAPOZA

The Spider-Verse will return in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SPIDER-VERSITY #1

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